The Living Situation of Older People in Austria compared to other European Countries

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(1) Population ageing
Up to 19 years: 21%
20-64 years: 62%
65+ years: 17%

Austria 2008
Up to 19 years: 18%

20-64 years: 54%

65+ years: 28%
Determinants of Ageing

Fertility

Mortality

Migration
Different fertility rates across Europe and future population structures
Development of life-expectancy in Austria

At birth

Source: Statistic Austria
Longer life in good or bad health?

- Concept of disability free life expectancy
- Based on self-perceived health, taking into consideration chronic diseases and impairments in activities of daily living
- Proportion of time spent in good health increased both for men and women
- Indicators for a compression of morbidity
- At higher ages: Frail women and dead men
(2) Survey on Ageing in Europe
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

- Longitudinal panel population aged 50+, living in private households
- Multidisciplinary project – health, economy, social network
- Financed mainly by European Commission through the 5th and 6th Framework Programme
- Free of charge, for scientific use only
- www.share-project.org
SHARE

1st wave (2004-05):
SE, DK, NL, DE, BE, FR, CH, AT, ES, IT, GR & Israel
ca. 30,000 interviews

2nd wave (2006-07):
... plus CZ, PL, IE

3rd wave (2008-09):
Retrospective questions

Partner surveys:
* Health and Retirement Study
* English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
(3) Living conditions of older people
Partner status, Austria

![Partner status chart]

- Partner
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Never married
Partner status by gender, Austria
Proximity to children
Close parent-child relations across Europe

Existence of longstanding regional patterns of ‘weak’ and ‘strong’ family ties.

Many similarities:
In all countries 75% of parents have at least one child living at a distance of at most 25 km.
Frequent contact with children: Share of persons with less than weekly contacts to a child is equally low (7%).
Housing (ownership of dwelling)
Further aspects of housing

Size of the residence
Number of steps to the entrance
Rent payments
Owning further properties (holiday houses, land, forest)
Special features that assist persons who have physical impairments or health problems (AT: 6%, SE, NL, DK: 12-17%; strong correlation with age)
Years living in current dwelling (Least mobility: Austria, Mediterranean countries)
Residential mobility (years in current dwelling)

![Bar chart showing residential mobility across different age groups and countries.](chart.png)
Subjective assessment of economic situation

„Difficulties to make ends meet“
Self-perceived health, by age

„Less than good health“

(in %)

0 100

IT DE GR ES AT FR SE DK BE NL CH

50-59 60-69 70-79 80+
ADL limitations

„2 or more limitations“

in %

50
40
30
20
10
0

50-59 60-69 70-79 80+

ES IT BE FR DK SE DE NL GR AT CH
Social engagement

- Voluntary or charity work
- Sports or other social club
- Help to family, friends or neighbours
- Educational course
- Religious organisation
- Political organisation
Volunteering

- Volunteering is frequent in some countries:
- Overall, 10 percent do volunteer work.
- In Scandinavia as well as in the Netherlands this percentage is even twice as high.
- In Greece, less than 4 percent report doing volunteer work.
- Austria: 8 percent
Going to a sport, social or other kind of club

- Similar pattern
- High participation in North and Switzerland (25-33%), low in South (6%)
- Austria in between (14%)
Thank you for your attention!